

RECORD REVIEW

by
Bob Woodhead

A local group called the Fridge Brothers have a third cassette tape available to the public, which can be obtained for £1.20 (including postage and packing) from Phil Roberts, 1 Guildford Close, Southbourne, PO10 8LW.

The group members are Phil himself on vocals and guitar, and Derek Ray on keyboards, bass and drum programming. They commenced playing in 1964 and have been in existence as a group since 1972.

There are eight tracks on this new tape which goes under the name "Limited Edition." The best of these is "Cut the Melon," a well constructed song with a drum-machine base. This has a contemporary, computer-fed feel to it and could be made into a hit single if presented to the right producer.

Needs boosting

Basically it just needs boosting up with some extra layers of Hi-NRG sound. The other song that might interest a major record company is the more traditional sounding "You Better Slow Down" which is a guitar-based number that reminds me of "I Fought The Law" by the Bobby Fuller Four, a hit in 1966.

The remainder of the cassette is a mixed bag. "Hook Me Up" is a good, organ-based song that needs a more up-to-date accompaniment, while "Another Girl" and "City Life" are rather boring with shades of self-indulgence, particularly the latter. "I Gave You A Good Love" has a catchy melody which sticks in the mind, but it is repetitive. "Nothing Was Surrendered" has an interesting rhythm on the chorus-line, so if the verses in between could be improved, this song would also have potential.

Dated sound

The "live" track "Honest Sam" features some good slide-guitar playing but the song and the recording sound dated. The general sound quality on the tape is far from perfect, but for a group without a record-deal the Fridge Brothers have done very well with the recording, which is obviously priced accordingly.

Local artists who have their music available on record or tape should send their recordings to me with full details about themselves and how readers can obtain their product. I will then consider featuring them in this column. The address is 47 Kensington Road, Chichester.

LP CHART

- 1 Brothers In Arms (Dire Straits)
- 2 Hunting High and Low (A-Ha)
- 3 World Machine (Level 42)
- 4 The Broadway Album (Barbra Streisand)
- 5 Island Life (Grace Jones)
- 6 The Dream Of The Blue Turtles (Sting)
- 7 Be Yourself Tonight (Eurythmics)
- 8 Whitney Houston
- 9 Like A Virgin (Madonna)
- 10 Once Upon A Time (Simple Minds)

Record Review

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"The Power of Love" by Jennifer Rush has become the longest running chart single for a woman, in an uninterrupted run. It has beaten the 32 consecutive weeks on the charts by Judy Collins's record "Amazing Grace" between 1970 and 1971.

Jennifer will be opening her British tour at the Brighton Centre on April 6 and her new single "Madonna's Eyes" is released this week.

Michael Elphick, from Chichester, plays the leading role in an excellent television series called "Boon," and readers will be pleased to know that the theme song is now available on record. It is called "Hi-Ho Silver" sung by Jim Diamond (on A and M) and it deserves to do well in the charts.

Kate Bush has released the title track to her "Hounds of Love" LP on a 45. In my opinion this is the best number on the album, so it looks like a sure-fire hit. The remainder of the new 45s include Freddie Jackson's re-released "Rock Me Tonight" (one of 1985's smoothest soul sounds), and "Silent Running" by Mike And The Mechanics. Mike is, of course, Mike Rutherford of Genesis.

EMI have issued a new set of compilation albums retailing at £3.99 and these include Manfred Mann's "The Singles Album," Gerry and the Pacemakers' "The Hit Singles Album" and Peter and Gordon's "The Hits And More." Manfred Mann's LP will be of particular interest to

readers as the group was based here on the South Coast before they became famous in 1964. It features all their HMV singles and their "B" sides from 1963 until their move to Fontana in 1966 and the departure of singer Paul Jones.

Similarly, Gerry and the Pacemakers' LP features their first eight singles complete with "B" sides, and Peter And Gordon's album contains their hits from their successful period 1964-66.

Instead of the normal LP chart here is a list of winners at last week's British Record Industry Awards:

British 45: Everybody Wants To Rule The World (Tears for Fears).

British Female: Annie Lennox.

British Producer: Dave Stewart.

British Newcomer: Go West.

British Group: Dire Straits.

British Male: Phil Collins.

British LP: No Jacket Required (Phil Collins).

British Video: Every Time You Go Away (Paul Young).

British Classical Recording: Elgar's Violin Concerto (Nigel Kennedy).

International Artist: Bruce Springsteen.

International Group: Huey Lewis And The News.

There were special awards to Bob Geldof (for "Live Aid") and to Wham! and Elton John (for taking music to the East).